

THE OBSERVER



SAINT JOSEPH'S COLLEGE
RENSSELAER, INDIANA

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New Students take Office for S.A.



PRESIDENT

Don Shuler
Class of 2003
Philosophy and History
Double Major

"My task is to serve as a communicator and a facilitator between the students and the faculty and administration. I voice the opinions of the student to the faculty and administration. I am the student representative to the faculty and administration."



VICE-PRESIDENT

Nick Schafer
Class of 2003
Communications and
Theatre Arts Major

"The specific tasks of my office are to oversee the constitution and election committee's and sit on the executive board, helping to make decisions that govern the senate."



TREASURER

John Ligda
Class of 2004
Church Music and Liturgy Major

"I am responsible for keeping all financial records of the S.A., in charge of establishing and maintaining a budget within the funds available from the college."



SECRETARY

Kris Dougherty
Class of 2003
Political Science Major

"I take the minutes of the Senate Meetings and make them available to whomever would like them and I'm also in charge of the Committee of Campus Clubs."

The beginning of the second semester marked a new term of office for four Saint Joseph's College students. Student Association (S.A.) now has four new executive board members who will be in charge of the student senate until the end of the calendar year.

The senate, which meets the first Tuesday of every month in the Shen Auditorium, is the the decision making heart of the student body. They review important decisions involving the college and student life, and the executive board is in charge of making these meetings run smoothly and ensuring that the

student body is represented in every issue. "S.A. is the executive body that oversees the student senate. It gives voice to the concerns of the students and provides a forum for students to bring their concerns to the administration" said Vice President Nick Schafer.

But although the student senate is a campus wide organization powered by the determination and needs of the student body, they also work closely with the faculty and administration.

Sara Post
Editor

One of President Don Shuler's goals this semester is "to keep the lines of communication with the faculty and administration open and free flowing" in order to maintain optimal success for the senate.

Although the senate is made up of elected representatives, anyone can attend a senate meeting, and the executive board urges students to do so. "The Senate allows the students to communicate to the faculty and administration what they are thinking through proper

channels" Shuler said.

Opinions are really what makes the forum of the student senate work. "The more students that become involved the greater the variety of opinions presented. Thus the decisions made become more representative of the student body as a whole," Kris Dougherty, S.A. Executive Secretary.

The student senate and the executive board will address many issues this semester that will affect the College community. Any student who wishes to bring an issue before the senate should contact their representative.

Information compiled by Angie Williams

Core Four Europe Tour 2002

May 8 through May 20

The tour includes overnight stays in London, Canterbury, Paris, Florence and Rome

There is still time to sign up!

Open to all Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors

Any questions or concerns contact Professor Oakes. Sign up cost only \$2,098 until February 27.



The Roman Coliseum
photo courtesy of Pat W. Smith

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Searching for Happiness amid Confusion

Casey Wagner

Now a days it is hard to find someone willing to admit his or her true beliefs openly. Why is it that when asked or even put in a situation that tests our beliefs I have noticed an overwhelming amount of people would rather watch their beliefs crumble, than take a stand and risk humiliation. Is human dignity a higher value than say, self-pride or honor when knowing where you come from and what you stand for?

During many recent conversations I have had with a neighbor and friend, we have come to a mutual conclusion that there is only one thing for certain: no one cares. As sad as this may sound, it is true. We have noticed that we hear more people say who cares everyday rather than people saying hello to one another. This is very disappointing and quite disheartening. I came to college anticipating to educate myself, but not just with books, but with life as well and that's what I intend to do.

How often have you heard someone shrug and say, "who cares"? Well I am sick of it. It is time to take a stand and it is definitely time for us to start showing our belief in something, whether it be God or what we are going to wear today. Just make a decision and stick with it, is all that I ask. Is that too much?

The Truth About Cats and Dogs

Can both women and men play nice and live happily ever after?

Mandy Meyers
Editor

Since I've been here at SJC, the concept of co-ed housing has always been a hot topic. I remember living in Justin and someone mentioning that the college was looking into making the dorm available to both men and women. Actually the whole campus would go through a renovation of this sort. The idea of men and women living together was completely new to everyone here. While many were excited about this, others were somewhat uncomfortable. But as you can see, it's four years later and nothing has happened.

I feel that this would not only help to improve the College but also strengthen male and female relationships. My only question is why hasn't this happened already? Numerous colleges and universities offer co-ed housing for their students. Why not SJC? Some would say that with men and women living in the same building, the quality and cleanliness of the dorms would go down. However, in my opinion I think it would not matter, or even better, would improve. Women would not tolerate male students who destroy their living environment. (I would think, maybe I'm wrong) More than

likely groups of friends would be living together, both male and female. So I would see the simple act of respect coming into play. I would not go upstairs to where my male friends lived and trash their hallway because it's rude and inconsiderate; also because we'd be friends. Why would I want to make them mad over something so stupid?

Also why would people not want to support something, which helps the student body prepare themselves for the real world? More than likely most of us will be getting apartments after graduation. Are we going to throw a tantrum when we find out that our neighbors are of the opposite sex? No, because that's silly. What's the difference if our neighbors are male or female? Granted I would not want to share a community bathroom with men, however if they lived above, below or next door to me I would not have a problem with it. Most of us do not live sheltered lives, so co-ed housing should not shock us. There is nothing unnatural or unhealthy with living with the opposite sex. I think those who are not in favor of co-ed housing are going to get a reality check once they leave SJC.

THINGS THAT MAKE YOU GO HMMM...

Why is it that the post office lobby is closed on Sunday? It's not that we need to buy stamps, but we would like to check our mail. I mean we only pay \$30 dollars for it. And why is it so expensive? Sheesh.

Why is there no G.P.A. requirement to be a member of the Student Senate, such as Dorm Governor or Senator? Seriously, why would you want someone with a 1.0 representing you? That's just plain scary.

How hard is it for people to remember to bring their keys and student IDs? Even more fascinating are those who bring them but leave them inside their backpack because they are too lazy to take them out. One word, amazing.

Dr. David B. Chattin, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Saint Joseph's College, has announced the Dean's List for the first semester of the 2001-02 academic year. Dean's List students are full time students who are in the top 10% of the student body academics. Those named to the Dean's List are:

Mary Balmes
Michael Barry
Adam Bartrom
Michael Beckner
Mary Beumer
Mathew Blanton
Mark Brouwer
Erin Burton
Sarah Chalik
Leslie Clevenger
Alison Cole
Abbey Conner
Cassandra Cooper
Brandon Dearthoff
Deborah Ferguson
Shannon Finerty
Amy Gardner
Nancy Giovingo
Emily Glendewell
Allison Glidewell
Karyn Greig
Gregory Gulvas
Amy Gulvas
Sarah Hachey

Eric Hall
William Hardy
Amanda Harrington
Blair Henley
Brandy Herriott
Martha Hinman
Sonia Honkisz
Jennie Hoot
Todd Huff
Susan Huss
Jennifer Jasinski
Steven Kaplan
Amanda Kiral
Mary LaReau
Amanda Lundeen
Breain Ma'Aytech
Kathleen Mahar
Aaron Messner
Vickie Moore
Sarah Morningstar
Elizabeth Morris
Ary Nelson
Adrienne Nicholson
Laura Nolen
Sarah O'Connor

Lawrence Poleski
Dannielle Pruett
Sara Putt
Lauren Roberts
Aimee Rogers
Christopher Sandor
Luke Schafer
Heidi Schwarz
Renee Simon
Mark Stasch
Jennifer TenPas
Kristy Tiede
Jeremy Trennepohl
Jennifer Varner
Adam Ways
Carolyn Weber
Sarah Wells
Jaclyn Whan
Amy Wittenberg
Sandra Wood
Cortny Woodruff
Theresa Yoder
Laura Zak
Kristi Zurawski

Congratulations!!!

Observer Staff

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Sara Post

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Dr. Charles Kerlin
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Dr. Ernest Mills III

Kairos XXXII

Pick up registrations at the Campus Ministry bulletin board.

Space for 30 participants so sign up now!!!

Any questions please contact:

Sarah 8643
Mike 5525
Bro. Tim 6110

A Taste of the Real World: A look at semester long internships

Internships can be a very valuable learning experience to students during their college years. The skills and experiences gained through an internship are unlike the skills and experiences that students gain at school. To show you just how important internships can be I interviewed three students who had semester long internships this past fall: Ben Zimmer, John Greene, and Jeremy Trennepohl.

Ben Zimmer's internship was at Walt Disney World in Orlando Florida, majoring in Marketing/Management. He worked in Merchandise/Entertainment and was involved in inventory control, running the register, and the shipping of products. He lived in an apartment in which the rent was deducted from his paychecks. He worked full time before the tragedy of September 11, and 30 hours after. He earned 12 credit hours, some of which included course work. If he could not earn credit he still would have taken the internship. When asked if his advisor was willing to work out his schedule in order to complete the internship, he exclaimed, "Linda McFarland is the best!" When asked what he learned from the internship, he told me that without quality, customers will not come back. He also said that they have an ingenious market scheme where they market their products to children and in turn the parents buy them the products because they want their children to be happy. He also learned how a huge company is run and how you are just one person who seems insignificant, but everyone working together is what makes

the company run well.

John Greene's internship was at Paige's Music in Indianapolis; he is majoring in Economics. He worked in the sales, repair, credit, and inventory management departments. His internship was full-time and paid; he lived with a friend in Indianapolis. He received 12 credit hours which included coursework for his internship he would recommend taking the internship even if not for credit, because the experience gained was so valuable. When asked if his professor was willing to work with him on his schedule, John replied, "Mr. Oakes has been real helpful and laid out my options very nicely for me." He found about his internship through Barb Robertson and a career fair. When asked what he learned from the internship, John told me that he learned to be on time, money management skills, to be considerate of others, who is depending on him and who to depend on, and he also said came to appreciate college more. John also said that he learned, "an internship is what they can put into you, a job is what they can get out of you." "I learned what I don't want to do" was his response when I asked if taking the semester off beneficial.

Jeremy Trennepohl had an internship with Borg Warner Automotive in Muncie Indiana; he is majoring in Business Management. His position was a supervisor in the casting department. He worked 40 hours a week and lived

Kelli Bridges
Career Center Correspondent

at home. He received 12 credit hours from SJC; three were for Organizational Behavior. Jeremy had this to say about his professor, "Prof McFarland did an outstanding job, she did everything, even took a plant tour." He found out about his internship from a friend of the family. When asked what he learned from the internship he told me that he learned what it was like to work in a union environment. He said, "the employees try to bully management and then management has to read the fine print to prove them wrong." He also learned to pay attention more in class and that the GPA will take care of its self if you learn the material. He also told me that he learned to maximize his options by attending career fairs and visiting the Career Center, and to make more contacts for his future career. When asked if he thought that taking a semester off was beneficial, he said, "yes, it prepares you more for the real world and if it pushes you back a semester then it is worth it." He said that he would consider working for the company if there were an opportunity to move up the ladder.

Now that we have looked at what the student had to say about their internship, let's see what their professors had to say. Professor Michael Oakes said, "internships obviously help students gain some awareness of real world working issues, such as what it means when we talk about work ethic and about taking re-

sponsibility for your actions and decisions." One very important statement that Professor Oakes had to say about internships was, "students are wasting a big opportunity if they are not pursuing internships. I know everyone hears that and dismisses much of it. Competing for the really good jobs out there are thousands of students at the top of their classes, with all the same kinds of sports and clubs and community service experience behind them. And they have internships." Professor Linda McFarland said this of the differences she saw in the students after a semester off, "the one word that I feel summarizes the student after a full semester internship, is MATURE. Somehow students grow in a way that is unequalled by anything we could do here on campus. All of the interns with whom I have worked over the years have become more serious students. Perhaps it is because they see a purpose to some of the things we do here in college. Maybe the knowledge that they really will be held accountable for knowing the things we preach in classes is important. I have always seen a positive difference in students on their return."

WOW! I don't know about you, but I am ready to find an internship! I hope that after reading this article, you are convinced of how important internships can be and that you will use what you are learning here at SJC in the real world! If you would like to find an internship you can visit the Career Center's web site at www.saintjoe.edu/~careers or visit the Career Center where you will find a wealth of information on internships.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON CAMPUS

Who: All Campus Residents
What: Pizza and Profs.
When: Wednesday, February 13, 2002, 7 p.m.
Where: Justin Second Floor Lounge
Notes: Educational/Social
By: RA: Renee Simon

Who: All Campus Residents
What: Mardi Gras
When: February 12, 2002, 10 p.m.
Where: Noll Lounge
Notes: Social/Campus 50 free beads will be given away at 10 p.m., 11 p.m.
By: RA: Erick Smith, Andrea Horst, Nicholas Schweiss, Kelly Krayniak

Measure

Submissions are due by
Friday, February 8
all entries are welcome
email Breain Ma'Ayteh
bme2690

Leadership Banquet

Last Thursday, January 24, Saint Joseph's students were honored for their hard work and dedication. A banquet was held to celebrate the leaders of the campus' clubs and the Resident Assistants. Certificates of recognition and thanks were given to those who give their time and determination to the various activities and organizations on campus.



photos courtesy of John Ligda and Mandy Meyers

Robert Garrity: More Than "Just a Teacher"

Beth Nix
Staff Reporter

Professor Robert Garrity is now in his 30th year of teaching here at Saint Joseph's College. For those of you who are not familiar with him, he teaches British literature, drama, and other English classes at Saint Joseph's College, along with Core 3 and 4. With a background in theater, Garrity sometimes breaks into song during class.

One student of his, Tina Carroll, said, "He is so smart, but he is so funny too. I actually want to go to class because he makes it fun, and he contains so much knowledge."

Garrity has the capacity to teach many subjects. He has a bachelor of the arts degree in German, masters degrees in religion, philosophy, and English Literature, and a Ph.D. in philosophy. Though he could teach a variety of subjects, he chooses to teach English. His favorite class to teach is "History of the English Language."

"I love that class," he said. "I love language."

One year there was a conflict in when to schedule this class.

Sophomore Annie Domasica has fond memories of that class. She said, "I don't know of anyone else who would choose to hold a History of the English Language course at 8 a.m. Needless to say, only four students chose to take it at 8 a.m. There was one morning that all three of my fellow classmates chose to sleep in instead of gracing us with their presence. At first, I was a little upset about this, but then I saw it as an opportunity to go back to bed for a little bit. Not Dr. Garrity. He just held class as usual, hardly taking the time to notice that it was only he and I in the room!"

Although Garrity is a valued teacher at SJC, teaching is not his one true passion. In fact, it was not his first choice of jobs. Garrity wanted to be an actor, and to this day, he loves acting. He is a member of the Carnegie Players, a group of actors in Rensselaer that put on productions. He is in



charge of picking the plays that they will perform. The last six plays that he has been involved in are: *Music Man*, *Catch Me If You Can*, *Anything Goes*, *Mouse Trap*, *My Fair Lady*, and *Pajama Game*. He enjoys not only his acting roles in the plays, but his directing as well. He was the director for *Mouse Trap* and *Catch Me If You Can*, and he was assistant director for *Pajama Game* and *Anything Goes*.

Garrity said, "I would have been an actor, but I had a wife, and five kids, so I decided I better stick with teaching."

His favorite role that he has ever performed was in *My Fair Lady*, when he starred as Alfred P. Doolittle.

Though he has been in many plays and has had many different roles, Garrity said, "I would like to do a lot more, but I'm getting too old, darn it!"

Garrity has kept himself quite busy throughout the years, even serving as dean for SJC in the years 1972-1984 and 1992, but he has always reserved some time for travel.

He has been restricted in his travels to the summer and spring, but going on half retirement this year and getting all of his classes in the fall semester, he has more time for travel. This semester he is planning a cruise through the Panama Canal. There are many places he would like to go. He has already been to the Caribbean twice, Alaska twice, Canada twice, Mexico, and to 45 of the 50 states.

"I will make it to those five though, probably pretty soon," Garrity said.

Garrity has shared his wisdom with a number of students. He is described as a standout teacher who really cares about his students and has a passion for life. He wants to see new things, go new places, and try different things. We at Saint Joe's have been lucky to have such a well-rounded teacher at our school, whose love for life, and the theatre is so evident. He will be missed when he retires.

Who will be Senior of the Year?

It's that time of year again. Time to elect the "Senior of the Year." Maureen "Moe" Egan is in charge of the senior nominations this year. "The College's Alumni and Parent Relations Director recently resigned so I am filling in temporarily on this project until a replacement is found," she said.

The process for doing senior nominations involves a few steps. Members of the senior class began by selecting their fellow classmates from a list of students who have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 and have completed at least 105 credit hours. Each senior could nominate three seniors from this list. This voting took place on Wednesday, January 9, outside the cafeteria at breakfast, lunch, and dinner. If there were any fifth year seniors, they were only eligible to receive this honor one time.

After the voting process was concluded, the five seniors with the most votes were considered finalists. Then a letter was sent to the SJC faculty and staff in which they write encouraging comments about the candidates. All five of the finalists who have been chosen thus far have to be interviewed by a committee which is comprised of the Alumni Association Board of Directors members, the sponsors of this award and the annual Senior Dinner committee. As soon as all the recommendations and interviews are done, the whole committee will make the final decision on whom the Senior of the Year is going to be in 2002.

There are five seniors in the class of 2002 nominated for this award.

Mathew Scot Blanton is a management major from Gaston, Indiana. Mathew played Division II football during his freshman and sophomore years. He has been involved in several intramural sports, including football, basketball, volleyball, hockey, and softball. He was on the Softball IM Champion Team last year, and was on the Football IM Champion Team this year. He also works as a tutor and at the Student Activities office. He and his roommates are strong supporters of Puma Athletics. They are most famous for showing up at the home football games with their chests painted. He was also part of the winning skit at the Lip Sync contest this year.

Katie Davet
Staff Reporter

Kristen Marie Hall is a sociology major from Highland, Indiana.

Kristen has been involved in numerous activities. She has been a dorm governor, a student representative of the Faculty and Admissions Committee, a participant in the Social Welfare Committees, a member of the Dean's "Housing Task Force", part of the Gallagher Charitable Society, a Varsity cheerleader for football and basketball, and a member of the SJC concert choir, Columbian Players, and the dance team.

Blaire Marie Henley is a chemistry major from Rossville, Indiana. Blaire has been involved in TRUMP, Kairos XXXII, Habitat Collegiate Humanity, Student Association, Phi Alpha Theta, and Alpha Lamda Delta. She has also been a freshman leader, works in the admissions office, and has taken part in drama productions.

Scott P. Morgan is an international business major from Xenia, Ohio. Scott is involved with SIFE, No Mullets Athletic Club, "Team Fat" Intramural Sports Organization, ALD National Honor Society, Core XI Support Team, and varsity "Air Band." He also does work study at the SJC library.

Megan Lee Taylor is a criminal justice major from Chagrin Falls, Ohio. Megan is the Core XI manager, a resident assistant, a freshman leader, Dr. Haskell's lab assistant, a fitness center worker, Track Marshal for Little 500, a tutor, member of the American Academy of Forensic Science, and the President of both SAFER and the Criminal Justice Club.

The senior of the Year award is given to the senior who most exemplifies the meaning and the mission of SJC. His/her academic achievements and services to our college community are taken into account.

Outside the Office of Student Development in the Halleck Center, students, faculty, and staff can take a look at who has received this award in past years. In the past two years, the winners were Varon Cantrell in 2000 and Daniel Adams, III in 2001.

The winner of this award will be announced at the annual Senior Dinner, which will take place on Friday, April 5 in the Halleck Center.

Columbian Players Try a Little Tragedy

Susan Huss
Features Editor

You know the story. A man dies. His sister wants to bury him against the king's wishes. Conflict ensues. But if you were here last weekend, you could have seen *Antigone* live, right here at Saint Joseph's College!

Antigone took place on Friday, Jan. 25 and Saturday, Jan. 26 at eight p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 27 at two p.m. John Rahe directed it with help from Stage Manager Wendy Sidener.

"John [Rahe] decided to do *Antigone* because there was a consensus that we should do a Greek or Shakespearian play," Sidener said before the play. "I honestly think that the play will amaze people at SJC. It isn't the type of play we normally do, and the actors have really committed to making the play excellent."

Sidener said many of the actors in *Antigone* were newcomers to the SJC stage and were playing their first major role. One of the newcomers was freshman Rebecca Scherer.

"I auditioned for *Antigone* to get the feel of college plays," Scherer, who was in the speaking chorus, said. "I have participated in numerous plays at my high school, but there is a big difference coming from high school and entering into college theater. Not only does the talent become more vast, but the quality of the material greatly increases."

Scherer said she enjoyed working with Rahe for the first time.

"I think John Rahe is an excellent director," she said. "He is a great actor himself, and he is very clear in his stage directions. He offers us help whenever we need it and is very understanding."

Junior Nicholas Schafer, a veteran on the SJC stage, said playing Creon in the play gave him a chance to explore different types of acting.

"I have always wanted to perform a classic play, but I have never had the chance until now," he said. "This kind of play requires a classic style of acting, and it's a challenge."

Schafer said he enjoyed working with the new cast members as well as the experienced ones.

"I am lucky to be working with such a great cast," he said. "There is a lot of young talent in this show, but the whole group is working very well together. On the other hand, Professor [Robert] Garrity has joined the cast for this show, and his experience has really helped me. I've learned a lot from him especially."

SJC newcomer Cortny Woodruff, who has been in several high school performances, said she learned more from being in *Antigone* than just how to act.

"It has taught me a little more about college life, and how to juggle so much at one time," Woodruff said. "It has also shown me that the next four years of theater here will be the best experiences I will have at SJC."

Before the play's performance, Woodruff said she thought the play would be a success because of its acting.

"The audience will be blown away by such powerful acting," she said. "Every night I go to practice, Nick [Schafer] makes me cry. His acting is powerful."

Scherer agreed, "Nick has the emotion and intensity for the role of Creon. He is sure to captivate the audience with his heartfelt plea for justice. Allison [Glidewell, who plays *Antigone*] is a magnificent actress, and the way she delivers her last speech is bound to leave not a dry eye in the audience."

After seeing the play, freshman Veronica Shook agreed with the actors that the play was a success.

"The actors and actresses did a stupendous job and it was a great joy to watch," Shook said.

Cast of *Antigone*

Antigone-Allison Glidewell

Ismene-Shannon Cheek

Theban Elder-Sarah Morningstar

Creon-Nicholas Schafer

Watchman-Timothy Hayes

Haemon-Brian Bugajski

Tiresias-Robert Garrity

Messenger-Todd Huff

Eurydice-Karyn Greig

Chorus: Rachel Lancaster, Amy Buckbee, John Westerfield,
Kenny Shumard, Jackie Ullery, Becky Scherer

Dancers: Eileen Tobin, Cortny Woodruff, Melissa Genova, Kristi
Zurawski, Erin Diener, Shenley Roberts

Professor David Dixon Hops on Board

Colleen Flynn
Staff Reporter



Saint Joseph's College recently made a new addition to the teaching staff with Professor David Dixon. However, Dixon has wasted no time. He has already gotten involved with his students on campus. He is excited to be here and has made an effort to reach out to the student body. Dixon can be found in the cafeteria or at the recreation center, attempting to score a goal with the men's soccer team.

Dixon made his formal introduction to students in January during a Core 8 lecture. He asked the students to call him "Dave, not Dude." Dixon has his own perspective on what should occur during his class sessions. During his Core 8 class, he chooses to sit among his students, rather than sit at the front. He believes that only important individuals should take the front desk.

Dixon believes in a "neo-kantian" approach to teaching. He said, "You

want everyone in the classroom to have equal say and be convinced only by reason not by coercion, not by anyone else's supposed authority. I would like to have a situation where everyone feels free to talk, and no one feels anymore slated by my opinion. I want people to learn from each other, as much as they learn from me."

Dixon said he makes an effort to relate to his students through ideas

that they will understand. He understands that college students spend much of their time in front of the television and therefore will unfold class ideas through popular sit-com examples.

David Dixon enjoys the idea of teaching at a Catholic Institution. He feels that SJC is terrific, and he said he feels an extreme comfort level here. This comfort level is due to the fact that he has attended religious schools during his life. He attended Wheaton College in Illinois, where he played soccer for two years. He went on to receive his Ph.D. from Notre Dame University. Dixon enjoys the curriculum focus on Christian humanism because he has devoted much of his life, and will devote "what is left of it," to understanding this subject. Dixon is currently teaching two political science courses, Women in Politics and Development and Comparative Politics.

Dixon said he would describe himself as "curious, naïve, and loyal." Regarding his curiosity he stated, "I'll stop whatever I'm doing, almost to a point of perpetual distraction, to figure out any inane thing. For example, it took me about 72 hours to learn how to beat my chess master software in chess. Humans can still beat me prettily easily, though."

Dave Dixon's role model is his paternal Grandmother Benedicta Avecilla de Dias. Her parents and thirteen siblings died of tuberculosis, and she was left an orphan at age seven with her older brother. However, she took jobs cleaning, learned to read, raised her older brother, and today is ninety years old with two successful children.

Dixon said, "To have been given absolutely nothing in life, and to patiently wait out the bad things and have the ability to enjoy the good things. Those are sort of people, who have lived through impossible circumstances, are the ones that I admire the most."

Dixon said his most memorable experience so far at SJC was his arrival on campus on Jan. 4. Yet, he has only just arrived, so many more experiences await him.

Puma Profile: Meet Jen Willig

Rebecca Scherer
Staff Reporter

Along with college come many new experiences: a new room, a new life, a new start, and a new season for sports players to start over with. Senior year in high school was the end of our lives as we knew them. We had our last game, our last performance, and our last time to be the big fish in the pool. We thought our sports careers had come to a close, but we had forgotten one little detail: a new season at college. A time to start over, and a time to make a new name for ourselves in a different place, a different world. This is how freshman Jen Willig sees the start of her season on the SJC Varsity Softball team. Hailing from Lombard, IL, she is quickly becoming a very active member in the SJC community. She is a member of the Education Club, Music Ministries, The Cause—a non-denominational group of Christians coming together to find Jesus and bring him closer—and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA.) “I think FCA is great,” Willig commented. “It’s a place where athletes can get together and share their faith. Most of the time we [athletes] don’t get to have something like that.” Although the title of the group may make it sound otherwise, membership is not restricted to athletes only: non-athletes are highly encouraged to attend.

Willig, a softball veteran, has been pitching for eleven years. She played for her high school, Montini, and also was a member of a travel team. “We went all over the place. We played in Colorado, Michigan, Texas, and Ohio, to name a few,” Willig proudly said.

She was recruited for her skills, and at first that was the major influence for attending SJC. But, like many other things, that was soon to change. “My reason behind my decision to attend Saint Joe’s started out as softball. It changed when I came here and saw the campus. I completely fell in love with this school,” Willig said with a smile.

Like any other team sport, it helps if the players are closely bound together. I’m sure on at least one occasion everyone has seen the “softball table” in the caf. After practice the whole team comes in to eat and they sit together, ice packs and all, enjoying themselves and their time spent together. Willig feels that the team is “very closely knit.” Her friendships

with other team members started on the field and carried over to the weekends.

Another advantage is to have a coach who is easy to get along with. Frank Wilkins, a second year coach here at SJC, is just that.

“I like him a lot,” Willig commented. “He came here and completely changed around the style of the program, bringing about a lot of improvement for the team as a whole.”

The team’s start of the season is in the middle of Spring Break. March 3rd marks their first official game; it’s a double header, taking place in Florida. The first home game will be on March 12th, against

Saint Francis.

Willig, a Math major and Secondary Education/English minor, plans to attend graduate school after SJC. She has her sights set on either

Benedictan University in Lysle, IL, or Northern Illinois University, in Dekalb. She hopes to further study math and someday become a high school teacher. Although she has been a mem-

ber of her high school’s volleyball and basketball teams, she is sure softball is the sport for her, and plans to continue playing as long as she is physically able.



Jen Willig’s Stats & Information

Year: Freshman
Game: Softball
Position: Pitcher
Home: Lombard, IL
Major: Math

Track: Newman has High Hopes Despite Injuries

New and Old Talent of Track/Field Teams adds Positive Outlook to Season

Bridget Newman
Staff Reporter

He finished first at Regionals his freshman year, and during his sophomore year he won indoor conference for the 800 meters. His junior year he was second in Regionals and was the 1500 meter outdoor champ. A mere two seconds stood in the way of him making Nationals. He was consistently one of the top 3 runners on the Saint Joseph’s College track and cross-country teams, and he was making an incredible impact on SJC athletics. At the beginning of his senior year, Tim Newman had every hope in the world.

His athletic career has been constant at SJC because the cross country season begins almost immediately after track. The men and women on cross country are expected to adhere to a strict running schedule throughout the summer months. Newman trained all summer, doing his best to stay in shape for the season ahead. The season began and both he and Coach Bill Massoels had high hopes.

About three weeks into the season, Newman began to feel pain in his left leg. Being a runner throughout high school, Newman was accustomed. He says, “Runners tend to have ailments, but they usually go away pretty fast.” Anticipating, this was the case,

Newman did not see a doctor until almost 6 weeks into the season. The pain had gotten so bad, he had pain in just walking. The Jasper County Hospital diagnosed Newman with the symptoms of a stress fracture on his left shin. Had he waited much longer, Newman’s condition may have grown seriously worse. Newman recalls the doctor saying, “Any time you feel pain from just walking, you need to get it checked out.”

Massoels was familiar with stress fractures, having been involved in Athletics for several years. He and Tim agreed that it would be best to sit out for two meets, knowing competitive running would not aid the healing process. Newman could not do his normal running routine; he needed to avoid pounding his leg. Instead, he consistently used the elliptical machine and did other strength training in hopes of keeping his muscles from weakening.

After four weeks off from the country season, Newman said his shin is fully healed. “Things like that just need time,” he commented. Unfortunately for runners, time is also all the body needs to lose its vitality. Newman was not happy with his performance at the January 19th meet. However, he has remained optimistic about the season. He has set himself the goals of winning conference and qualifying for Nationals. To complete this second

mission, Newman must have a 4:15 mile time and rank in the top twelve among competitors.

Newman adds that his teammates have really helped him out, pushing him to do his best. He adds that there are several track and field athletes to watch out for this season. He notes freshman Roger Driver, who qualified for the indoor nationals in March and tied for first in the 200 meters. Newman also highlighted senior high jumper Josh Hughes, junior runner Melissa Kleinmaus, and sophomore long jumper Lyndi Cruikshank.

Indeed the track and field team, comprised of over 50 members, has a lot of exciting talent. Freshman Kristin Ganderski and Natalie Salinas are still wowed by the abilities of the team. Salinas notes, “Our first meet was humbling. My senior year of high school, I didn’t lose.” Ganderski adds, “When track practice first started I was nervous, but the coaching team made it fun and easy to transition.” Ganderski and Salinas are two of the 13 freshman now competing on the track team.

The team has meets into late May. The next meets are at Findlay University in Ohio on February 1st and 2nd and at DePauw University in Indiana on February 9th. Results from the meets will be posted on the SJC website under Athletics.

If anyone is interested in contributing their talents to the Observer Sports section, email Melissa, Mgg3598@saintjoe.edu

Superbowl Equals Super Parties

Bridget Newman
Staff Reporter

Imagine this: you are seated in the first row center on the 50 yard line of the Louisiana Superdome on February 3, 2002. It is five o'clock CST. You are surrounded by the screams of 71,999 football nuts. You see Mariah Carey about to walk onto the field to perform the National Anthem. This is the moment you've been waiting for-game time!

Not that lucky? Don't worry. Most Saint Joseph's College students aren't either. That is why students at SJC are making the best of being in Indiana when Superbowl XXXVI kicks off and we've got the low down on three places where the party is going to be!

Site #1: Justin East

Although these girls prefer to have their names kept anonymous, the first floor on Justin East has quite a fiesta planned. The ladies there anticipate fifteen to twenty-five people in and out of the room. They are serving basic snacks: pretzels, chips, dip. Of course, bringing your own food is always welcome. This is going to be a laid back atmosphere. In fact, these ladies seem more interested in the commercials.

Commercials played during the Superbowl sometimes get more hype than

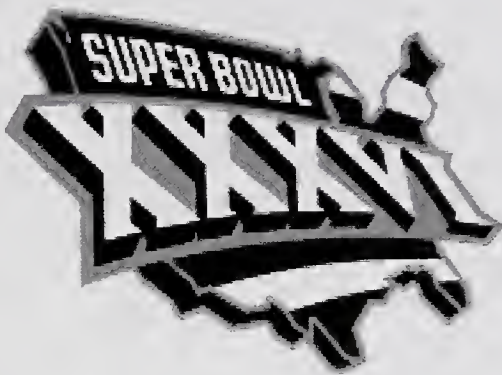
the game itself. One Justin resident recalls a Monster.Com commercial that aired two years ago that satirically featured children reciting their career aspirations. For the 2001 Superbowl, 69 commercials aired. Each 30-second spot cost \$2 million.

Site #2: Bennett

The Superbowl is a big deal for the Bennett boys. At the most recent dorm meeting, RA's included the game as part of the items being discussed. The lounge of the first floor features a big screen television so residents anticipate at least 60

people in and out. Between \$100 and \$200 is spent on food alone, including pizza, chicken wings, chips, and beverages.

And what Superbowl party would be complete without the betting square? People bet on either the point spread or the actual score of the game. Winners often leave the game with ample amounts of cash.



Site #3: Merlini

Like Bennett, many Merlini residents have big plans for Superbowl XXXVI. They are going all out to appease those appetites. Some anticipate spending over \$200 on food. Ideas include pizza, doritos, and of course, what party wouldn't be complete without yard-o-beef?

If they run out of any food, some say they would be more than willing to miss the half time show. In fact, several residents say they would rather watch wrestling if it is on. This year's half time performer is U2. Rumor has it the band may be joined by former Beatle, and now solo artist Paul McCartney.

Indeed, February 3rd will be a landmark day for the year 2002. Last year, Superbowl XXXV was the 5th most watched television program in history with over 131 million viewers. Yes, many people gather to see the \$12,000 Vince Lombardi trophy held high in the air. Will it be the Eagles or the Rams? The Steelers or the Patriots? No matter who the team is, the SJC streets will undoubtedly be cleared.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 31

* Women's Basketball
HOME Wisconsin-Parkside
5:30 pm

* Men's Basketball HOME
Wisconsin-Parkside 7:30 pm

Feb. 1

* Men's Track and Field
(Feb. 1 & 2) AWAY
Findlay University. Time TBA

* Women's Track and Field
(Feb. 1 & 2) AWAY
Findlay University. Time TBA

Feb. 2

* Men's Tennis AWAY
Chicago State University
2:00 pm

Feb. 7

* Women's Basketball
HOME Northern Kentucky University
5:30 pm

* Men's Basketball
HOME Northern Kentucky University
7:30 pm

Feb. 9

* Women's Basketball
HOME Bellarmine University 1:00 pm

* Men's Basketball
HOME Bellarmine University 3:00 pm

* Men's Tennis HOME
Illinois-Springfield 1:00 pm

* Men's Track and Field
AWAY Depaw University 10:00 am

* Women's Track and Field
AWAY Depaw University 10:00 am

Feb. 14

* Women's Basketball
AWAY University of Southern Illinois 5:15 pm

* Men's Basketball
AWAY University of Southern Illinois 7:30 pm

March begins the season for
Women's Softball.

Good Luck to all Puma
Athletic Teams!

Basketball : Turning Things Around

Women's and Men's Basketball at SJC work hard to pull themselves together to improve their team's status

Alison Cole
Staff Reporter

Last year, the men's basketball team had an impressive season. They made almost 50 percent of all two point field goals, almost 40 percent of all three point shots, over 75 percent of all free throws, almost 1,100 rebounds, 89 blocks, scored just over 2,600 points, and won 18 out of 31 games and 11 out of 20 conference games.

This year, the stats are basically the same. Right now, although there are five weeks left in the season, the men have made over 40 percent of all field goals, over 35 percent of all three point shots, over 70 percent of free throws, 617 rebounds, and 53 blocks. However, they have only won four out of 17 games.

The players are still optimistic though. Greg Muller, sophomore, said, "I think that we definitely have the potential to turn the season around. I think that we have a chance to go farther than last year's team did if we can pull together. But if not, it will be a very disappointing season."

Jake Argenta, sophomore, has very similar feelings. He said, "This season is going kind of rough right now, but we have been playing well since the start of the semester, and

after beating the University of Southern Indiana, we feel like we can turn the season around." The University of Southern Indiana is the current Conference Champion.

After beating USI last Saturday, Head Coach Joe Carrillo feels that, "Up until this point the season has been a little disappointing, but after beating USI, we feel like we have a good chance to finish the season strong."

Just like the men's stats, the women's basketball stats from last year are very impressive. The women made 40 percent of all field goals, 30 percent of all three point shots, 70 percent of all free throws, 918 rebounds, 54 blocks, and scored a little over 1,700 points.

This year, the girls have made 40 percent of all attempted field goals, 30 percent of all three point shots, 70 percent of all free throws, 622 rebounds, 52 blocks, and have scored an impressive 1,246 points, with five weeks left in the season. However, like the men's team, the

have only won four out of 17 games.

The players on the women's team also feel that the season is not going to be a total loss. Erin Sampsel, sophomore, said, "The season can definitely be turned around. All we need to do is focus more on each and every possession of the ball that we get. Hopefully this season will be much better than last year."

Whitney Avery, junior, echoes Erin's opinion. She said, "Right now we are struggling, but we played well last week and are excited about that. If we play consistently strong on defense like we did against USI the season will go much better."

If you are interested in watching either the men or the women play, both teams have an upcoming game against Wisconsin-Parkside on January 31st. The women play at 5:30pm and the men play at 7:30pm. There is also another game on February seventh for both teams against Northern Kentucky. Again, the women play at 5:30pm and the men play at 7:30pm. Both teams hope that they will be able to fix their problems and pull together to make the last 12 games better than the first 17.

Just Think About it...

"The human race has one really effective weapon, and that is laughter."

-Mark Twain

"Speak softly and carry a big stick; you will go far."

-Theodore Roosevelt, 1901

"To dare to live alone is the rarest courage; since there are many who had rather meet their bitterest enemy in the field, than their own hearts in their closet."

-Charles Caleb Colton

GODLINESS

Take a smile,
fill it with Emptiness
—paint it black

Take the eyes,
fill them with Loneliness
—paint them black

Take the soul,
fill it with Cleanliness
—paint it black

—anonymous

SJC Poet's Corner

Thursday

Running

What a punishment, I can not imagine the sin that caused God to chastise us so.

But we must run.
from...

class to class.
meeting to meeting.
lecture to lecture.

party to party.
beer to beer.
shot to shot.

woman to woman.

I feel hot and cold,
disgustingly thick and dangerously thin,
contemptuously smart and immensely stupid.

as if some giant insect
is eating away at me,
from the inside
out.

But still I run.

~Luke Nicholas

Saturday

I am supposed to confess.
But to what? What shall I confess to,

Shall I say that when I was ten I ran away. Or that the car accident was not caused by a stray deer, but my straying mind.

Saturdays are good days to confess, they are lazy, as unmotivated as an old dog, who has long forgotten his tricks.

Shall I cry and beat my breast as I tell of the time that I pushed Mitch down the stairs out of frustration and revenge.

Saturdays are as good for confessing as Sundays are for forgiving.

Shall I confess that I secretly tried to forget my love.
For my family.
For my God. For that girl.
For myself.

But Saturday will not let me forget, it holds me and forces me to confess, to relive the pain and the horror of my weakness.

I hate Saturday.

~Nicholas T. Schafer

What Are You Afraid Of?

The word "phobia" is a term that refers to a group of symptoms brought on by feared objects or situations.

A phobia is a persistent, irrational fear that causes a person to feel intense anxiety.

Phobias are the most common form of anxiety disorders, which affect people of all ages, at all income levels and in all geographic locations, according to a study by American the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), between 5.1 and 21.5 percent of Americans suffer from Phobias. Broken down by age and gender, the NIMH study found phobias were the most common psychiatric illness among women in all age groups and the second most common illness among men older than 25.

ablutophobia: washing or bathing
aerophobia: flying
alektorophobia: chickens
alliumphobia: garlic
allodoxophobia: opinions
androphobia: men
barophobia: gravity
coulrophobia: clowns
didaskaleinophobia: school
ergophobia: work
erythrophobia: the color red
geniophobia: chins
lathanophobia: vegetables
lutraphobia: otters
metrophobia: fear or hatred of poetry
peladophobia: bald people
politicophobia: politicians
potophobia: alcohol
sciophobia: shadows
sinistrophobia: left-handedness
venustraphobia: beautiful women

www.uselessknowledge.com

At the Movies with Mike: ALI: THE GREATEST?
DON'T BET ON IT!

Mike Potts
Staff Reporter

The film opens in 1964, with a string of Sam Cook songs, as a young man is running through the streets. "What are you running from?" a policeman asks, rolling up behind him in his squad car. From then on, the tone is set for the film. The determination in his face proves that this man is not running from anything. He is running to it.

In its beginning, Ali prepares us for an inspiring Rocky-like story, with then Casius Clay the underdog challenger, moving through a number of training sequences. He is a poor black man, considerably smaller than his bruising opponent, heavyweight champ Sonny Liston. The hype is there, the Sam Cook tunes help propel it, and the determination and charisma Will Smith amazingly gives his character makes all of us want to join his corner.

But this story-book tale, the inspiring story of an underdog from the streets rising to the top, is short lived. Only its beginning, from the training through the match, is it as motivating. Once Liston throws in the towel, Clay is champ. From then on Ali is anti-climatic. Sure there is more adversity in Clay's life, far more pressing than his bout with Sonny Liston, but this film

struggles to tell it.

The film is long, nearly three hours in length, and the way director Michael Mann, pieces it together only draws it out longer. We see certain scenes drag on, while others, seemingly more important and crucial to Ali's life are just hurried by.

One example is while preparing for the fight in Zaire against George Foreman, Ali runs through the village. One would think he ran the entire continent of Africa as long as the scene went. I could not see any good reason for the scene, except to kill time. The film leaves a lot left unknown, only touching upon something long enough to get us interested, then whisking it away. One moment, he is single, and the next he is married with a crying baby in the other room. All without warning. The film does not explain who was shot on the balcony, only that it was someone who invoked riots and fires. Unless the viewers had some sort of frame of reference about the assassination of Martin Luther King, this scene would have been a filler.

The film does accomplish the irony in Ali's life. If there's anything you will remember about the movie, it's Ali's conservative religion and his trash-talking. He is a Muslim, one who preaches peace and to be humble, yet Ali is a fighter, and no where near humble.

But for all the good things the film does, it is countered by the dwelling on Ali's dark side. His life to everyone else was full of energy. Of course there are instances when Smith brings out this energy, of the fast talking, fast dancing, and fast jabbing boxer, but in all Ali is dark and slow.

I realize that there is more to Muhammad Ali's life than boxing, but there could have been a little bit of it in the film. The story is mostly political. We see racism and religious practices, and for a time I couldn't tell if it was a movie about Muhammad Ali or Malcom X. The film hints at the murdering of Emmitt Till for whistling at a white woman, then we are uppercutted, with Ali being on top of the world, both black and white. We watch him refuse to enter the service during the Vietnam war because of his religion, this causing him to lose both his title and his religion. He stood on principle. "No Vietcong ever called me Nigger," he explained. There were more important things to fight for at home.

I guess what is so frustrating about the film is, that I really wanted to like it. The hype prepared me for a great movie, a real knock-out. But all it did was go the distance in a very unexciting match.

Who Am I?

She earned a place in literary history when she wrote her one and only novel. One of the best-selling fiction works of all times, the book took her 10 years to write. She grew up in Atlanta, Georgia, where she heard the stories about the Civil War from Confederate Army veterans. They provided her with the background for her book. The Civil War epic she wrote was published in 1936 and won a Pulitzer Prize. The film version of her novel came out in 1939 and saw record-breaking success.

Margaret [Peggy] Mitchell

www.uselessknowledge.com

If you would like to contribute your talents to this page, please contact Nick Schafer at nfs3156@saintjoe.edu